

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00520 261948Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 IO-13
EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01
/079 W

-----261953 063222 /47

P 261245Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1793

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 5 2 0

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU

SUBJECT: MULTI-LATERAL AFFAIRS: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING,
LOME, FEB. 21-28

REF: (A) LOME 474, (B) LOME 483, (C) LOME 509,

1. BENIN. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HEARD PRELIMINARY
REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON MERCENARY INVASION
OF BENIN DURING SESSION OF FEB. 25. REPORT IMPLICATES
MOROCCO AND GABON AS BACKERS OF RAID. ACCORDING
TO REPORT MERCENARIES WERE TRAINED IN MOROCCO
AND TOOK OFF FOR RAID FROM FRANCEVILLE IN GABON.
THE COUNCIL CONCLUDED, AFTER MUCH HEATED DEBATE,
THAT THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY SHOULD CONTINUE ITS
INVESTIGATION AND SUBMIT FINAL REPORT TO AN EXTRA-
ORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING OF OAU. SEPARATE REPORT,
WHICH ALSO CHARGES MOROCCO AND GABON, PREPARED BY
PETER ONU, OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, WILL
ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT.
OAU SECRETARIAT IS CHARGED WITH CIRCULARIZING
CHIEFS OF STATE TO DETERMINE DATE FOR THE EXTRA-
ORDINARY SUMMIT; HOWEVER, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
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SPECULATION THAT THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON
BENIN WILL BE PIGGY-BACKED ON THE SUMMIT ON
SPANISH SAHARA NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 28.

2. DJIBOUTI. THE OAU FINISHED DISCUSSION OF
DJIBOUTI ON FEB. 25 AND SEVEN-MAN DELEGATION

HEADED BY OMAR FARA ILTERH AND AHMED DINI
ALLEGEDLY REPRESENTING ALL DJIBOUTI FACTIONS
EXCEPT THE "NEW" LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE UNION LEAVES FEB. 26 FOR PARIS TO
OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH ON INDEPENDENCE.
FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION IN PARIS THE DJIBOUTI
FACTIONS WILL MEET IN ACCRA MARCH 28-31 FOR
ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON
POLITICAL PLATFORM FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT
OF DJIBOUTI. GHANAIA COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS FELLI IS TO CHAIR ROUND-TABLE. IN THE
OAU COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS ON DJIBOUTI, ONLY THE
TWO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU
WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE FLOOR, THE FRONT DE
LIBERATION DE LA COTE DES SOMALIS (FLCS) AND
THE MOUVEMENT POUR LA LIBERATION DE DJIBOUTI
(MLD). BY PREARRANGEMENT THESE MOVEMENTS SPOKE
ON BEHALF OF ALLIED DJIBOUTI POLITICAL FACTIONS.

3. RHODESIA. DISCUSSION CONTINUED IN COMMITTEE
ON PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF WHICH RHODESIAN LEADERS
WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE OAU, BUT NO FINAL
DECISION WAS TAKEN AS OF CLOSE OF SESSION OF FEB. 25.

4. LAW OF SEA. THE OAU COMMITTEE DEALING WITH
LAW OF THE SEA ADOPTED THE REPORT PREPARED BY
THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT
TO CONVENE A MEETING IN LAGOS DURING THE MONTH OF
APRIL TO PREPARE A COMMON AFRICAN POSITION PRIOR
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TO THE RESUMED LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. WE
UNDERSTAND THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT IS QUITE
CRITICAL OF THE U.S. POSITION, BUT LACK DETAILS
AT THIS TIME.
PALMER

NOTE BY OC/T: LOME 0520 NOT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME00520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770067-1220
Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977026/aaaaaeyn.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2e96acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LOME 474, 77 LOME 483, 77 LOME 509
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3370133
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTI-LATERAL AFFAIRS: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, LOME, FEB. 21-28
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e96acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009